



PRESS RELEASE

#PEP2024

**Shaping the future of social Europe after the elections:
People Experiencing Poverty at the center of policy-making**

14 - 15 June 2024

The Nhow Hotel Brussels

PRESS RELEASE

100 delegates are asking for a Social Europe at the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

On **14 and 15 June**, around 100 **People Experiencing Poverty (PeP)** will meet in Brussels to demand a more social Europe following the elections. The event will bring together **23 delegations from all over Europe**, all determined to make their voices stronger and share their expertise with the new representatives of European Institutions.

The European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty (PeP Meeting), organized by the **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)**, is a key event for the members of this international network.

*"It is one of the rare opportunities for this group, who is very underrepresented in political debate, to have their voices heard at the European level," says **Juliana Wahlgren**, director of EAPN. "We often talk about them in the press and in debates. But rarely with them. And rarely addressing solutions."*

Focus on the Belgian Presidency's La Hulpe Declaration

During these two days, delegates will explore the main priorities for **the full eradication of poverty**. Like a meeting of the Council of the European Union, the meeting will be an opportunity to exchange ideas among peers, to outline plans, and by drawing on significant living experience, to compromise on a common declaration for the future of **Social Europe**.

Following the elections, participants will particularly focus on the content of **the La Hulpe Interinstitutional Declaration**, which was signed on April 16 under the mandate of the **Belgian Presidency**. People Experiencing Poverty will analyse the main objectives of the document for the **2024-2029 Social Agenda** and will share their views on the future of the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as on the implementation of these guiding principles in the years to come.


"You can be the smartest or the most powerful, but you can't solve a problem you don't know about. That's why our voice is important." **Maxim De Jonge**, PeP from Belgium and participant in the PeP Meeting 2024

High-Level Dialogue

A panel discussion with key institutional stakeholders will conclude the first day of exchanges where People Experiencing Poverty will introduce their proposals to high-level politicians at the Belgian and European levels. The UN rapporteur **Olivier De Schutter**, the Belgian minister **Karin Lalieux**, the European Commissioner **Nicolas Schmit**, and the Belgian Minister **Minister Frank Vandenbroucke** are invited to share their position on topics such as **minimum income, digitalisation, homelessness, and the child guarantee**. In a direct democracy process, they will also respond to recommendations presented by spokespersons of the different delegations of People Experiencing Poverty.

Making the Invisible Visible

On the second day, the Town Hall Meeting will be another opportunity for the participants of the PeP Meeting, who are highly marginalised and seldom represented in the public debate, to show the deep reality of poverty in Europe. It will also **highlight possible solutions based on their living experiences**. Following the EU elections and through this **Visibility Action**, EAPN hopes to draw the attention of newly elected officials that ending poverty in Europe is a political choice. And foremost, to advance this political choice, those most affected are ready to be consulted.



The European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty is organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). For its 22nd edition, the Meeting is part of the official agenda of the **Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU** and is co-organized by the **Belgian Anti-Poverty Network (BAPN)** with the support of the **European Commission** under the **EaSI** (Employment and Social Innovation) program.

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Let's get in touch !



PEP2024!
14-15th June